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Talking Points for the ADDI

11 August 1986

Qadhafi's Domestic Situation

Libyan leader Qadhafi has rebounded from the shock of the US airstrikes last April and is again taking charge of Libyan policy. In particular, Libyan diplomatic activity has picked up and is exhibiting a greater sense of direction than it did in the first two months after the raid.

-- Tripoli is actively trying to rebuild its ties to Western Europe and the Third World to stymie US efforts to isolate Libya.

-- Qadhafi himself is more active, suggesting he is feeling more confident. He hosted the leaders of North and South Yemen last month in an unsuccessful effort to mediate their differences, and last weekend he met with the Prime Minister of Sudan.

Despite Qadhafi's renewed political vigor, his prestige and political standing in Libya have not recovered from the blow they suffered in the US attack. With his aura of shrewd judgment and invincibility damaged by the US action, Qadhafi faces a volatile domestic situation. popular discontent with Qadhafi--already high--has become more open since the airstrikes.

-- For the first time this year antiregime leaflets and graffiti have appeared in Tripoli and Banghazi, Libya's two main cities.

-- Libyan soccer fans demonstrated against the regime early last month. They shouted antiregime slogans and tore down posters of Qadhafi, in the first such demonstrations outside the universities.

-- Libyans are publicly blaming Qadhafi for the deaths of fellow countrymen in the military clashes with the United States in March and April.

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We do not believe it likely that the normally apathetic Libyan public will rise up against Qadhafi, although the open discontent helps to create a political atmosphere conducive to coup plotting. 25X1 25X1

-- 25X1 military officers 25X1

We believe the officer corps also is alarmed at efforts by the Revolutionary Committees to use the Libyan military's poor performance last spring as an excuse to undermine the officers' already limited political influence. revolu. committees

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Qadhafi is taking steps to enhance his security, but he is not addressing the root causes of discontent--a faltering economy and harsh repression. causes econ. For example, he has restricted the Army's access to ammunition stocks 25X1 .

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At present the security forces apparently remain loyal; however, in a serious crisis latent tribal rivalries--especially between Qadhafi's tribe and the Maghara tribe of his deputy Major Jallud--could threaten regime solidarity. Barring no new pressures on Libya, we judge Qadhafi to have a slightly better than even chance of remaining in power for the next year. 25X1

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SUBJECT: Qadhafi's Domestic Situation

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